

## **Village Board Public Safety Committee**

### **MINUTES**

**~ Wednesday, March 2, 2016 ~**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Trustee Nero called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

In attendance were:

Trustee Addington, Trustee Barker, Trustee Guzzo, Trustee Liddle, Trustee Nero, Mayor Gunter, Village Manager May, Fire Chief Weiss and Police Chief Mulhearn

Also present:

Deputy Fire Chief Connolly, Deputy Fire Chief Riley, Deputy Police Chief Gunther, Deputy Chief Brenza, Finance Director Parker, IT Director Liljeberg, Sergeant Lenny Gabreleski, Residents Yvette and Nick Linklater and Recording Secretary Hardy

Absent:

Trustee Barry

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 4, 2016 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Trustee Addington made a motion, seconded by Trustee Liddle to approve the February 4, 2016 Public Safety Committee Minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT / FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Presentation of Life Saving Awards**

Chief Weiss introduced Awards Committee Chairman Joe Kielczynski and said he would be presenting Teamwork Commendation Awards to several Fire Department members. He also advised Lt. Josh Turen would be presented the 2015 Firefighter of the Year Award at the March 17th Village Board Meeting. He encouraged members to attend in support of Lt. Turen.

Awards Chairman Kielczynski provided a summary of the emergency response on November 25, 2015. He advised extensive extrication was necessary on a pin in vehicle accident. The vehicle hit a pole and the victim was extricated and transported to the hospital within a one hour timeframe. He commended members for their quick response and coordinated team effort.

Trustee Nero, Chief Weiss and Awards Chairman Kielczynski presented award certificates to Capt. Kevin Sievert, Lt. Carl Witt, F/F Gary Goodman, F/M Padraic Power, F/M Eric Rasmussen and Retired F/M Dan Sullivan.

### **Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Consolidation and Operations Update**

Village Manager May advised the special meeting was called to provide an update on consolidated dispatch and its effects on Westmont. The item was included for discussion on the February 4th Public Safety Committee agenda however, due to time constraints discussion was not held. He further advised several conversations with Downers Grove have been held since February 4th and staff has several updates.

Village Manager May advised DuPage County ETSB is allowing four PSAP's to continue operation despite its consolidation efforts. The PSAP's include Du-Comm, ACDC (Addison), DuPage County Sheriff and Downers Grove VOC.

- Recently ACDC approached both Westmont and Downers Grove pertaining to providing dispatching services. This prompted Westmont to evaluate and discuss current dispatching services.
- He then turned the meeting over to Police Chief Mulhearn to discuss the past, present and future of Westmont dispatching.

Police Chief Mulhearn provided a PowerPoint overview on the past, present and future of Westmont dispatching.

- Chief Mulhearn explained initially Westmont began working with the Village of Oak Brook regarding consolidation. At the time the only other options were Downers Grove and Du-Comm. ACDC did not yet exist. After failed negotiations with Oak Brook, Westmont chose to move dispatch operations to Downers Grove VOC.
- Chief Weiss said several meetings have been held with Downers Grove Police, Fire and Westmont to discuss operations over the last 4.5 years. He indicated there have been issues on both sides related to personnel and technology.

- Initially DG VOC agreed to provide a dedicated fire desk for daily operations. To date the fire desk is still not available due to DG VOC staffing issues.
  - Trustee Guzzo asked if Du-Comm and ACDC had dedicated fire desks. Chief Weiss advised Du-Comm did have a dedicated fire desk and ACDC does not currently dispatch fire related calls. He further advised ACDC is willing to add fire dispatching to accommodate Westmont needs.
- Chief Weiss said after several meetings with Downers Grove there were four areas of concern identified.
  - Fire Dispatching, PD Dispatching, Complaint Resolution and Customer Service.
  - Westmont has expressed concern over response times over the last several years. Improvement has been noted recently.
- Chief Weiss advised the IT Department met earlier to discuss tech upgrades to improve responses.
  - An upgrade of antiquated equipment will be required at both fire stations with a \$60,000-\$70,000 estimated cost.
  - Trustee Guzzo questioned if equipment would need to be replaced if Westmont left DG VOC.
  - IT Manager Liljeberg said it needs to be replaced regardless of moving or staying with Downers Grove. The equipment is 60 year old technology.
- Chief Weiss said Downers Grove has identified several areas to improve.
  - They have determined that the alarm board needs to be moved and one person placed on it at all times.
  - There are ongoing issues with maintaining full time staffing and high turnover. There is currently no exit interview process in place. Westmont will be working with Downers Grove staff members in an effort to determine how to retain staff.
- Chief Mulhearn said the Police Department has been working on changing SOP's in an effort to improve day to day operating issues.
  - He said the Police Department transitioned from CAD 6 to CAD 4 when they moved to DG VOC. This created some issues that staff is looking at ways to improve.
  - He further stated the Police Department has received several resident complaints pertaining to dispatching. These complaints are being addressed through ongoing training.
- D/C Riley said he was advised earlier in the day that the Downers Grove Village Board voted to approve a new Police Department Facility including a 28,000 square foot dispatch facility. Anticipated completion would be in 2018.
  - Mayor Gunter questioned if Westmont would be required to fund a portion of the new facility. Village Manager May indicated Westmont would not be required to provide funding for the new building.

- Chief Mulhearn advised Westmont currently splits repair costs 60/40 with DG VOC.
- He further advised if Westmont were to leave DG VOC they would most likely fall below the population threshold required to maintain a stand alone PSAP. If that were to happen they would most likely be forced to consolidate to a larger center.
- Village Manager May said staff has not evaluated moving dispatch centers based on cost. Thus far it has only been based on customer service.
  - ACDC presented a good offer but it is limited to a three year incentive. Staff is unsure of costs beyond the three year timeframe.
  - ACDC currently only dispatches Police but indicated they would add Fire if Westmont were to move to their facility.
  - Chief Mulhearn indicated ACDC only charges for personnel and not repairs costs.
  - Chief Weiss advised Westmont does not currently have a frequency to use. DG VOC has the current frequency.
- Village Manager May clarified Westmont would only need to declare intent by July 1, 2016 to meet ETSB requirements. If Westmont were to decide to move an actual move would take several years to implement.

Chief Mulhearn advised Deputy Fire Chief Connolly serves as a member of the ETSB Board and can provide valuable insight pertaining to dispatching options.

Deputy Chief Connolly provided a PowerPoint presentation on DuPage ETSB Dispatch Consolidation.

- He provided a summary on dispatch consolidation in DuPage County.
  - ETSB provides substantial funding of equipment to each PSAP and can only support approximately 25% total cost of 911 and dispatch.
  - The ETSB encourages consolidation as a means of using funds more effectively and they are no longer willing to fund individual PSAPs.
  - The goal of consolidation is to reduce costs as well as meet State and ETSB goals of reducing the number of PSAPs in DuPage County.
  - There were originally 22 PSAPs including Du-Comm within DuPage County. Five years ago there were 18 PSAPs with DuComm being the only large consolidated center. When 911 legislation was adopted last year there were 8 PSAPs (3 consolidated and 5 single agency).
  - By the end of 2016 all police and fire departments except the DuPage County Sheriff will be consolidated. At that point there will be a maximum of four PSAPs in DuPage ETSB (Du-Comm, ACDC, Downers Grove VOC and the DuPage County Sheriff). This arrangement also complies with the State 911 legislation.
  - DuPage ETSB is in the process of attempting to route 911 wireless calls to the appropriate PSAP as currently all wireless calls are routed initially to the Sheriff.
  - Current 911 legislation sunsets in 2020 and predicting what future legislature might do is difficult, but the sense is that reducing the number of PSAPs will continue to be a priority. Next Generation 911

implementation is targeted for 2020 and will likely encourage additional consolidation.

- Since 2009 ETSB has authorized several million dollars to encourage voluntary consolidation (including Westmont). After extensive discussion, an additional \$1 million was approved for five fire agencies to move from Du-Comm to ACDC.
- There is a recommendation from the Executive Director to the Board to eliminate consolidation reimbursement for any agency that declares its intention to move after July, 2016. If Westmont chooses to move after the deadline, all the relocation costs would be borne by the Village. If the Village moves in the next four years, they would potentially need to reimburse ETSB for prior consolidation reimbursement (\$0 to \$50,000 depending on timing). If DG VOC were to decide to consolidate, the potential costs would likely be significantly less.

Chief Mulhearn outlined three options for Westmont.

- Remain with DG VOC.
- DG VOC and Westmont move together to a larger center (i.e. Du-Comm or ACDC).
- Westmont moves alone, which will directly impact DG VOC.

Chief Weiss said Westmont needs to consider potential future legislation and its impact on Westmont.

- Concern was expressed over only two towns being with the DG VOC. ETSB may force them to consolidate at a future date.
- Further concern was expressed over the July, 2016 ETSB deadline and potential future costs.
- Chief Weiss also said staff needs to consider the effect on DG VOC employees as well.

In closing, Chief Mulhearn said any questions should be directed to Village Manager May, Chief Weiss or himself. Staff will provide another update at the April 14, 2016 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Addington motioned to adjourn, to which Trustee Guzzo seconded. The meeting subsequently adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hardy  
Recording Secretary